A REVIEW OF THE Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Obſervations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Saturday, April 21. 1705.

HAving thus run thro' the Conſequences of Low'ring the Prices of our Manufacture, I come to Enquire what Amends our Trade can make us for all the Inconveniences we ſhall ſuffer on this Head, and I think the utmoſt the Advocates of this Article ever yet pretended to, is concluded in this one, the Encreaſe of Conſumption, that we ſhall make a larger Quantity.

Now 'tis true, and I'll readily grant, that Cheapneſs cauſes Conſumption; but how will this make us amends for ſinking the Value of our Lands in the Labour of our Poor?

I confeſs, I do not foreſee the Poſſibility of it; for to whom ſhall the Gain of it redound?

To the Poor it can be no benefit, for nothing can do them any Service, but what raiſes the Price of their Labour, or ſinks the Price of Proviſions; and either of them would bring back the Matter to what it was before.

All that can be ſaid is, It would Encreaſe the General Stock of the Nation in Trade: This is replyed to then, That this Method would Enrich the Merchant by Impoveriſhing the Gentry, and the Labouring Man; ſo that it would ſtill be ruining both Ends, to keep the Middle whole.

But let us Examine a little, how they are ſure this falling in Price would anſwer this one End they pretend to; there was an Act of Parliament, or two, in King *William*'s Reign, which in favour to the Woollen Manufacture, gave two great Aids to it in *England*, one of which, leſſen'd the Price at Market, and the other prevented a Growing Rival; and I would fain have our Advocates for the Trade, give a good Account of the Advantages the General Trade has made of theſe two Privileges, before they Enter their Claim to more.

1. The taking off a Duty of 5 *per Cent.* paid upon the Exportation of all Woollen Manufactures

2. The prohibiting the Inhabitants of *Ireland* from Exporting any of their Woollen Manufactures.

The firſt of theſe Enabl'd the Merchant immediately to come to Market 5 *l. per Cent.* Cheaper than he did before; and I would be glad any Man of Dealing, either in the *Dutch*, *Hambrough*, or *Turkey* Trade, would tell me, Whether they have ever ſold one Piece of Cloth the more for it at *Hambrough* or *Scandaroon*?

If they ſhall ſay, That was not enough, I would Enquire then, Whether that 5 *l. per Cent.* was *bona fide* abated Abroad on their Sales, or no? Or, Whether it was not buried in the Profit of the Merchant? If the firſt, it muſt in a Proportion Encreaſe the Trade, by bringing our Price nearer to the Encroaching Neighbour,

bour, or *Cheapneſs will not in this Caſe cauſe Conſumption*; and if ſo, than Low'ring our Prices would not anſwer the End; but if it was only 5 *l. per Cent.* added to the Profit of the Merchant, then was the End of that Act Defeated by the Exporter, and the Nation *very little beholden to them.*

And thus 'tis very likely it would be, were the farther Abatements granted, they can pretend to.

It may remain to bring this to a Concluſion, to Enquire how much can the *Dutch* out do us in *Turkey* or *Germany*, in our Woollen Manufactures? And ſuppoſe it ſhould be anſwer'd, 15 *per Cent.* which is a great deal more than I hope is true.

To this I reply then, by making a Demand, That if an Act of Parliament ſhould paſs, that inſtead of the Duty of 5 *l. per Cent.* paid formerly on the Export of our Woollen Manufactures, 10 *per Cent.* Bounty-Money ſhould be paid to the Exporter of all our *Engliſh* Broad-Cloth ſhip'd to *Hambrough* and *Turkey*, how much more in Value would the Merchants Engage to Export to thoſe Places?

I confeſs, there is more in this Propoſal, than I have room to Inſert in theſe Papers; and the Ill uſe made of Bounty-Money in our Corn-Trade to *Holland*, is a great Objection againſt Bounty-Money in General; the *Dutch* frequently laying up great Quantities of our Corn, Exported from hence when Cheap, and for which they have receiv'd the Bounty on Exportation, which on any ſuddain Riſe of the Price they Import again upon us, and receive a ſecond Profit from our own Improvidence and Neglect.

However, in the Caſe before us, a Bounty of 10 *per Cent.* paid by the Government, upon the Export of ſuch Branches of our Manufacture, as ſuffer by the Rivaling of our Neighbours, would have four Remarkable Conſequences.

1. If the Grievance be real, it would remedy it, and Enable our Merchants to come to Market 15 *per Cent.* Cheaper than they could before; and 'tis hop'd Cheaper than any Rival Traders; or elſe it is very hard, and the Grievance is too far gone to admit a Remedy.

2. The Encreaſe of the Export would be to the Publick much more advantage that the Payment can be a Loſs, tho' a Tax ſhould be rais'd for it.

3. It will be a compleat Diſcovery, whether the Grievance be real, or no? And whether coming Cheaper to Market, would be a Remedy, or no? And if it be not, 'twould be very hard we ſhould attempt to Lower the Wages of the Poor, with all the fatal Conſequencs of it, to remedy an Evil which is grounded ſomewhere elſe; and which, at laſt, will not admit of Remedy by that Coſtly Method.

Laſtly, The Miſchief will be healed, at a Cheaper Rate to this Nation, than the fatal way of reducing the Wages of the Poor, and the Bounty given for the Encouraging our Manufactures, may eaſily be rais'd upon ſome other part of our Trade, which may much better bear it, and which would be far from being a Grievance, at leaſt, not equal to this.

Thus the Cure may be wrought without Poiſon; the Nation, which is the Patient, will ſuffer no Convulſions, nor run any Danger of Death in the Operation.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

HERE's another Promiſer of Marriage, wants the Societies Diſpenſation, if Infallibility were their Portion, this among other Emoluments, might bring them in a good Penſion; for we find People are mighty fond of promiſing Matrimony, and often Repent before they come to Church.

SIR,

ADmiring the Impartiality you uſe in the Solution of all Queries, and the good Advice you preſcribe to the Afflicted, emboldens me to beg the Favour of your Aſſiſtance in the following Caſe.

I am a Widower, with about ſix of the Pſalmiſt's *Bleſſings (living in the Metropolis of* Surry*) and tho' not of two Months ſtanding, yet by the Importunity of a Perſon, about the Bulk of a Maid, have given*

given my Promise to Marry her (not being able to reject Female Courtship) and as a Testimony thereof, I've made several Alterations in my House, designed for the Reception of my new Elected Spouse. But being Advis'd by several Friends, and deliberately considering my too rash Undertaking, I find She's too Morose a Temper for a Mother-in-Law; and to speak plainly, I know not one good Quality She has (however I was blinded.) Now, Sir, finding the Match is so disagreeable, as will certainly (if done) be to the Prejudice of both; I've endeavour'd to persuade her to desist her Courtship, and Annihilate my Promise: But being loth to be bilk'd of a Husband, tho' She buys him at never so dear a rate, turns a Deaf Ear to my Persuasions. Therefore I beg your Advice, Whether, or no, I mayn't give her a Positive Denial, (for nothing less will serve) without being guilty of the Breach of Honour, Honesty, or Good Manners. Your speedy Answer will mightily Oblige,

SIR,

Jan. 29. 1707. *Yours,*

Averruncus.

Pray insert your Answer in the Review, *and not the* Supplement; *and if you can possibly in your next.*

Indeed, Sir, the Society cannot Discharge you in either of the three Articles of Honour, Honesty, or Good Manners; tho' in pity to the six Dear Blessings you speak of, they are mighty willing to advise you not to comply with it yet, and perhaps Time may answer your End, and bring her ill-natur'd Ladyship to Dismiss your Engagement; for 'tis very hard, if it is as you say, That you should Expose six Innocent Children, to the Morose Government of a Mother-in-Law, that you say, has not one good Quality in her.

The Office of a Mother-in-Law, being also, perhaps, the most Difficult any Woman can undertake; the Society humbly recommend it to the Party her self to consider, if this Gentleman has any Love for his Children, what sort of a Life she will Live? And whether she had not much better desire to hear St. *Sepulchres* Bell Tole for her, than be Married.

SIN and Shame always go together, said the Society, when they read the following Letter.

Gentlemen,

BEing Inconsiderately fall'n under ill Circumstances, must beg a little of your Wholsome Advice; (not knowing a freer, or more purer Spring, which flows with such Bounty and Good Will as yours.) The Case is———

Prompt with Supernatural Folly, and not foreseeing the fatal Consequences that often follow L———*y, resolv'd to pursue my premeditated Design; (you know what I mean) but then shock'd between the fear of a Clap, and a Kid, (having seen many direful Events of the former, but alas, (till now) none of the latter, resolv'd on that, and accordingly pursued my Resolution, alas, to my Sorrow.*

For Thursday *Night last, the Person being a Servant Maid, and yet of goodly Parentage, came to me, and told me, She was* Pregnant, *and Vow'd she knew no other but me; (which indeed I believe.*

Gentlemen, *This is the Case: I am a Young Man, and have not yet receiv'd my Portion of my Friends; they are Old, and consequently against any Sin of this kind: This* Gentlemen, *may be my Ruine, my own Head can't well bring me off, which makes me have recourse to you; wherefore desire you would consult the propereſt means to preserve my Reputation, I mean, in disposing of things so, that it might be kept in darkness from the World, partisularly my Friends. I am,*

Gentlemen,

Your humble Servants,

M. S.

The Society always profess themselves willing to Advise any People how to avoid things Scandalous, and if possible, to draw the Picture of Vice in its own proper Colours; that the Ignorant and Unwary may avoid it, and learn to Walk Watchfully and Wisely in this Difficult World.

But really, Gentlemen, how to Conceal Crimes, how to Convey away Bastards, procure Secret Places for a Scandalous W——— to drop her Spurious Burthen in Private; this is a Part of the Work of those Members of Darkness that are concern'd in the Propagation and Encouragement of Vice, which are things they desire not to be Concern'd in.

Further they observe, this Young Gentleman does not say one Word to them about Repentance, or a Sense of the Crime, nothing of Concern for the Injury done himself, or the Woman, and the Affront to the Omniscient, but abundance of Sollicitous Care about the Shame, and the Knowledge of Friends, &c.

These

These things the Society Declare themselves unconcern'd about, if he has any thing to say to them about the former Matter, they are ready to Advise him, when he thinks fit to Desire it——But as to hiding of Bastards, and Great Bellies, they beg his Pardon, and Desire him to go to the next House, 'tis none of their Trade.

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